

I have practiced in East Hartford for 37 years. Many of my patients have Medical Assistance and others are considered "working poor" who have slightly higher than the threshold for Medicaid. I have had to turn away literally hundreds of patients because the payments from Healthnet, Community Health Network and title 19(EDS) are woefully inadequate for me to operate my office and pay lab fees. If these organizations are receiving money from the State they sure aren't paying me or other dentists. I have been able to negotiate with Blucare (Wellpoint) for certain procedures whose fees are still very low (below the 60th percentile) but for most procedures it is not possible to give care. At this time I only accept Wellpoint which means all other plans are excluded. It is mandatory to have these plans pay the 70th percentile IMMEDIATELY. The plans are receiving State money and keeping it - it is a travesty which should have been investigated years ago. I look forward to serving my community but I cannot go bankrupt doing it. this population (adults & children) urgently need care and going to the ER is not only extremely costly for the State but achieves nothing except very immediate palliative care. I believe this about directing money already allocated and also increasing funds to bring this humane program into the year 2007.

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